

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: Chair Janna Taylor, on February 16, 2015 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Janna Taylor, Chair (R)
Sen. Edward Buttrey, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Sen. Scott Sales (R) (arrived after roll call)
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R) (arrived after roll call)
Sen. Gordon Vance (R)
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Mary McNally (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Charlene Devine, Committee Secretary
Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 303, 2/11/2015; SB 294, 2/11/2015; SB 239, 1/30/2015

00:00:52 Vice Chair Buttrey assumed the role as Chair.

HEARING ON SB 303

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:26 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 303, Revise rural fire district laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:33 Bernie Olson, Somers Rural Fire District (SRFD)
00:04:45 Sen. Sales entered the hearing.
00:05:49 Leonard Lundby, Montana Fire Alliance (MFA)
00:07:32 Dave Schulz, president, Montana Association of Counties

Opponents' Testimony:

00:08:46 Jacqueline Lenmark, American Insurance Association
00:10:06 Sen. Tutvedt entered the hearing.
00:13:40 Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance (SFI)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:15:18 Sen. Barrett
00:18:52 Mr. Van Horssen, SFI
00:19:04 Chair Taylor
00:20:19 Sen. Cohenour
00:21:32 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:22:01 Mr. Lundby, MFA
00:22:23 Mr. Olson, SRFD
00:23:08 Vice Chair Buttrey
00:23:14 Mr. Olson
00:23:18 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:26:02 Mr. Olson
00:26:35 Vice Chair Buttrey
00:27:01 Sen. Vance
00:27:08 Vice Chair Buttrey

Closing by Sponsor:

00:27:21 Sen. Cohenour

HEARING ON SB 294

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:29:13 Sen. Frederick (Eric) Moore (R), SD 19, opened the hearing on SB 294, Revise hospital district laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:30:03 Jason Rittal, executive director, Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation (EPEDC); president, Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDIA)

00:33:39 Candyce Payne, administrator, Prairie Community Hospital

00:35:58 Dick Brown, president, Montana Hospital Association

[EXHIBIT](#)(los35a01)

00:37:01 Dave Schulz, president, Montana Association of Counties

00:37:44 Ron Devlin, self

00:38:45 Mr. Rittal, EPEDC

[EXHIBIT](#)(los35a02)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:39:22 Sen. Vuckovich

00:39:40 Sen. Moore

00:39:52 Sen. Vuckovich

00:40:12 Sen. Pomnichowski

00:40:37 Mr. Rittal

Closing by Sponsor:

00:40:46 Sen. Moore

HEARING ON SB 239

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:42:39 Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R), SD 22, opened the hearing on SB 239, Protect property rights of dog owners by prohibiting breed-specific ordinances.

[EXHIBIT](#)(los35a03)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:45:59 Greg Van Horssen, Best Friends Animal Society

00:48:04 Ledy VanKavage, attorney, Best Friends Animal Society (BFAS)

[EXHIBIT](#)(los35a04)

00:57:19 Erin Kolczak, Electric City Pittie Committee (ECPC)
01:00:58 Stuart Doggett, Montana Veterinary Medical Association
01:01:39 Linda Stoll, Montana Environmental Health Association, American Public Health
Officials, American Public Health Association

Opponents' Testimony:

01:03:05 John MacDonald, City of Missoula, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:04:57 Sen. Pomnichowski
01:05:54 Mr. MacDonald, MLCT
01:06:12 Sen. Pomnichowski
01:06:57 Ms. Kolczak, ECPC
01:08:19 Sen. Tutvedt
01:09:36 Sen. Kary
01:09:40 Sen. Barrett
01:09:47 Sen. Kary
01:10:11 Vice Chair Buttrey
01:10:21 Ms. VanKravage, BFAS

Closing by Sponsor:

01:10:43 Sen. Kary
01:12:39 Vice Chair Buttrey

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:23 P.M.

Charlene Devine, Secretary

cd

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([los35aad.pdf](#))